

NO CHANGE in Class.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Latvia/USSR

DATE: 25X1A

INFO.

SUBJECT Coastline Defense; Conditions in Riga

DIST. 27 March 1947

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

25X1X

ORIGIN

25X1A

This document is hereby upgraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 13 October 1973 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

1.

The Russians are continuing work on the coastline fortifications, similar to the Atlantic Wall, which were begun along the entire Baltic States coast during the war by the Germans. Source believes that the defense system will extend to Stettin.

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Comment:

the construction

of similar fortifications in East Prussia.

The entire coastal area is under guard and is closed to civilians. Although there is a border line between the Baltic States and East Prussia, it is possible to cross without difficulty. No border formalities exist between the Baltic States and USSR territory.

Riga suffered little important war damage. The harbor is in good condition. Source claims that, during the period March to December 1946, there was an average of three destroyers, twenty submarines and twenty torpedo boats in the harbor at all times. The former Latvian State Shipyards, which produced submarines during the war, currently employ approximately 10,000 men. (Nature of work not reported.)

4.

The principal Riga factories have been repaired. An automobile plant, employing about 6,000 workers, is producing T-34 tanks. Tanks of this type are also being built by the former Latvian Tractor Factory, which employs 8,000 persons. The production quota is two tanks per day. (Actual production not stated.) In addition, a number of electro-technical and radio plants are working exclusively for the Soviet Army. These installations employ only Soviet workers.

5.

The ruble is the official currency. In December 1946, Russian was to become the official language.

6.

Bread and flour are unrationed; meats and fats are abundant but rationed; textiles and leather goods are scarce.

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